

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6912

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 2467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, PGOV, UY, IT

SUBJ: BIO DATA ON NEWLY APPOINTED URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER,
ADOLFO FOLLE MARTINEZ

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 2170 (NOTAL) (B) MONTEVIDEO 2187 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON JULY 6, 1978 ADOLFO FOLLE (FOH-LAY) MARTINEZ WAS NAMED URUGUAY'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, CANCELLING HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO ITALY. HIS ELEVATION IS REGARDED AS A POSITIVE STEP BY URUGUAY'S MODERATE MILITARY LEADERS, WHO SUCCEEDED IN OUSTING FORMER FONMIN ALXYMNDRO ROVIRA AND OTHER HARDLINE WITHIN THE MINISTRY. IT IS ALSO WIDELY POPULAR AMONG THE RANK-AND-FILE OF THE MINISTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN TROUBLED BY INEPTNESS, PERSONAL AND POLITICAL CONFLICTS, AND CHAOTIC DISCIPLINE. FOLLE IS EXPECTED TO LEND AN URBANE AND PROFESSIONAL AIR TO THE FUTURE CONDUCT OF URUGUAYAN FOREIGN POLICY (WHILE THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY DEPARTMENT, CARLOS GIAMBRUNO, TAKES THE LEAD IN POLICY INITIATIVES). FOLLE MARTINEZ, A CAREER DIPLOMAT, HAS SERVED IN CHILE, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE VATICAN, SWITZERLAND, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA (THE LAST TWO RECENTLY AS AMBASSADOR) AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN NUMEROUS MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL (ESPECIALLY URUGUAYAN-ARGENTINE) CONFERENCES. WHILE FOLLE WILL BRING HIS OWN STYLE AND PROFESSIONALISM TO THE MINISTRY, HE REMAINS THE MILITARY'S MAN, HOWEVER, AND PARTICULARLY ON MAJOR ISSUES THE DECISIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY WILL COME FROM THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. EARLY LIFE AND CAREER: FOLLE MARTINEZ WAS BORN IN MONTEVIDEO ON 6 MAY 1924. HE EARNED HIS BACCALAURATE IN ARTS AND SCIENCES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE REPUBLIC AND PURSUED POST-GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE FACULTY OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, BUT NEVER COMPLETED A DEGREE. JOINING THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1946, HE WAS FIRST NAMED AMBASSADOR IN 1967, WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S KEY FOREIGN POLICY DEPARTMENT. IN THIS POSITION HE WAS A DELEGATE TO NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL (1969-1971) AND ARGENTINA (1971-1975). IN 1971 HE ALSO WAS NAMED CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING COMMISSION OF THE COUNTRIES ALONG THE RIO DE LA PLATA, A LARGELY BILATERAL (WITH ARGENTINA) BODY CONCERNED WITH NEGOTIATING AND DRAFTING AGREEMENTS AFFECTING THEIR MUTUAL WATER BOUNDARY IN THE AREAS OF FISHING RIGHTS, CHANNEL RIGHTS, BOUNDARY DISPUTES, ETC. THUS, FOLLE MARTINEZ CAN BE CONSIDERED EXPERT IN SOUTHERN CONE DIPLOMACY, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS ARGENTINA. THE FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS CAREER TO DATE:

7/78 - NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER

3/78 - CHIEF DELEGATE, ARGENTINE-URUGUAYAN TECHNICAL COMMISSION ON THEIR SHORELINE (MONITORING BODY TO FOLLOW UP THE "TREATY OF THE RIO DE LA PLATA
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AND ITS SHORELINE").

- CHIEF DELEGATE, JOINT ARGENTINE-URUGUAYAN COMMISSION ON THE RIO URUGUAY BOUNDARY.

10/71- AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA UNTIL 1975

- CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE COUNTRIES ALONG THE RIO DE LA PLATA (IGC) WHICH PRODUCED THE KEY "TREATY OF THE RIO DE LA PLATA AND ITS SHORELINE" (1973) AND CONTRIBUTED TO SEVERAL JOINT ARGENTINE-URUGUAYAN AGREEMENTS.

7/69 - AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL, UNTIL 1971

4/67 - DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY

1966 - SUB-DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY DEPARTMENT

1960 - EMBASSY TO ARGENTINA

1957 - EMBASSY TO SWITZERLAND (DURING WHICH, IN 1958, HE WAS A DELEGATE TO THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

1953 - EMBASSY TO THE VATICAN

1950 - EMBASSY TO ARGENTINA

1947 - EMBASSY TO CHILE (DURING WHICH, IN 1948, HE WAS
A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION TO THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA)

1947 - EMBASSY TO BRAZIL

3. POLITICAL ORIENTATION: FOLLE MARTINEZ IS A PROFESSIONAL
DIPLOMAT WHO HAS MIXED LITTLE IN DOMESTIC URUGUAYAN POLITICS.
ALTHOUGH A MEMBER OF THE PRO-BATTLE FACTION OF THE COLORADO
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PARTY AND THE SON OF A POLITICALLY ACTIVE FATHER WHO HELD
ELECTIVE OFFICE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, HE HAS AVOIDED TAKING
STRONG PARTISAN STANDS. HE RETAINS CLOSE TIES WITH BOTH
COLORADOS AND BLANCOS, AS WELL AS WITH MANY OF THE CURRENT
CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS OF URUGUAY. MAKING FOREIGN
POLICY, IN SOME OF ITS MOST TECHNICAL AND ARCANE RAMIFICATIONS,
HIS BAILWICK HE RARELY HAS STRAYED FROM IT. HIS SINGLE-MINDED
CONCENTRATION ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, AND HIS RELATIVE
ISOLATION FROM THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE CONTRIBUTE STRONGLY
TO HIS ACCEPTABILITY AMONG THE MILITARY. HE IS ALSO HIGHLY
REGARDED WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH BADLY NEEDS A
GRACEFUL, PROFESSIONAL TECHNOCRAT TO MANAGE ITS DAY-TO-DAY
OPERATIONS AND RESTORE OVERALL MORALE. UNDER HIS HARDLINE
PREDECESSOR, ALEJANDRO ROVIRA, THE MINISTRY HAD BEEN TROUBLED
BY INEPTNESS, PERSONAL AND POLITICAL CONFLICTS AND CHAOTIC
DISCIPLINE.

4. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES: FOLLE, SURPRISINGLY,
HAS NEVER TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, HE HAS ALWAYS

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ACTION INR-10

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AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 2467

ACTED IN A CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE MANNER TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD, AND HAS EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE PROSPECT OF TRAVELLING TO NEW YORK ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEXT UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. IN A STATEMENT AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER, HE STRESSED A RETURN TO THE "TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY --- DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF GOODWILL..." IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HE HAS EMPHASIZED A DESIRE TO WORK TOWARD RESTORING MORE POSITIVE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

5. PERSONAL DATA: FOLLE MARTINEZ, DESCENDS FROM PRESTIGIOUS, WELL-TO-DO PARENTS ON BOTH SIDES AND IS MARRIED TO A WOMAN OF SIMILAR BACKGROUND, THE FORMER LUCIA ALGORTA NECOL. HE MAINTAINS LARGE RURAL LANDHOLDINGS AND HAS NEVER SOILED HIS HANDS WITH COMMERCE. INTERESTINGLY, THREE (OF FOUR) SONS HAVE TAKEN ECONOMICS/ACCOUNTING DEGREES FROM ARGENTINE SCHOOLS AND HIS NEPHEW RECENTLY MARRIED AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. ALTHOUGH HIS PERSONAL STYLE IS STATELY AND URBANE, HE IS FRIENDLY AND EASY-GOING, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS FAMILIAR NICKNAME "CHOCHO".

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ALTHOUGH HE HAS NEVER VISITED THE U.S., FOLLE MARTINEZ HAS TRAVELLED THROUGH MOST OF SOUTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE ARE HIS PREFERRED SECOND LANGUAGES, BUT HE ALSO SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH, ITALIAN AND GERMAN.

6. COMMENT: SOME BELIEVE THE ELEVATION OF FOLLE MARTINEZ TO FOREIGN MINISTER PRESAGES A NEW EMPHASIS ON ARGENTINA AND AWAY FROM BRAZIL. THE EMBASSY SEES LITTLE EVIDENCE FOR THIS, HOWEVER, OTHER THAN HIS EXTENSIVE SERVICE IN JOINT URUGUAYAN-ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. FOLLE IS A DISTINGUISHED SENIOR DIPLOMAT, WELL VERSED IN ALL ASPECTS OF URUGUAYAN FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY SOUTHERN CONE DIPLOMACY. NEVER ACTIVE IN INTERNAL POLITICS, HE HAS MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH URUGUAYAN MILITARY LEADERS. HE REPORTEDLY SERVED THE

MILITARY AS AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON INTERNAL FOREIGN OFFICE MATTERS BEFORE THEY INSTALLED THEIR OWN MAN IN 1976; SEVERAL INFORMANTS SEE THIS AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT. HIS APPOINTMENT WAS WIDELY POPULAR WITHIN THE TROUBLED FOREIGN MINISTRY WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO LEND AN URBANE, STATELY AND PROFESSIONAL AIR TO THE CONDUCT OF URUGUAYAN FOREIGN RELATIONS (WHILE DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY DEPARTMENT, CARLOS GIAMBRUNO, TAKES THE LEAD IN POLICY INITIATIVES).

ON BALANCE, SELECTION OF THE AMIABLE, REASONABLE UPRIGHT AND PATRICIAN FOLLE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMS IDEAL FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION. HOWEVER, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP IN MIND THAT HE WAS SELECTED BY THE GENERALS AS A NON-CONTROVERSIAL, APOLITICAL TECHNICIAN WHO COULD BE RELIED UPON FAITHFULLY TO CARRY OUT THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND TO REPORT ACCURATELY AND FULLY TO THEM. ALTHOUGH CHOSEN BY THE MODERATES, HE APPARENTLY WAS NOT OPPOSED BY THE HARDLINERS. THUS, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTHOUGH FOLLE BRINGS HIS OWN STYLE AND PROFESSIONALISM TO THE MINISTRY, HE IS THE MILITARY'S MAN AND, PARTICULARLY ON MAJOR ISSUES, THE DECISIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY WILL COME FROM THEM. CHEEK

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